

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NEA-10 EA-10
/163 W

-----036377 241850Z /43

R 241222Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8453
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC
USOEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, UK, OECD, ECE
SUBJECT: BRITISH ENERGY SECRETARY DERIDES IEA

1. U.K. ENERGY SECRETARY, ANTHONY WEDGWOOD BENN, TOLD
A LONDON AUDIENCE ON 18 JULY THAT THE INTERNATIONAL
ENERGY AGENCY WAS A VEHICLE FOR CONFRONTATION WITH
OPEC. BENN SPOKE AT AN ENERGY SEMINAR AT THE SOCIAL
SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER ATTENDED BY ABOUT FIFTY
PARTICIPANTS, MANY OF WHOM ARE ACTIVE IN THE ENERGY
FIELD IN THE U.K. AND EUROPE. THE CONFERENCE WAS
..
NOT OPEN TO THE PRESS, AND STATEMENTS WERE NOT FOR
ATTRIBUTION.

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2. BENN SAID THE FRENCH, "BEING BRILLIANT DIPLOMATS",
HAD CHOSEN TO STAY OUT OF THE IEA AND TO PURSUE THE
PRODUCER-CONSUMER DIALOGUE. HE SAID ONE ONLY NEED
READ SOME OF THE 1973 SPEECHES OF FORMER SECRETARY
KISSINGER TO REALIZE THAT THE IEA WAS DESIGNED FOR
CONFRONTATION. HE SAID A MUCH BROADER INTERNATIONAL
ENERGY DIALOGUE WAS NOW NEEDED, TO INCLUDE NOT ONLY

OIL PRODUCERS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BUT ALSO EASTERN EUROPE. BENN RECALLED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS THE WORLD'S LEADING OIL PRODUCER AND WAS AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT SUPPLIER OF ENERGY TO WESTERN / EUROPE. STATING THAT THE U.S.S.R. AND THE U.S. WERE "LIKE THIS ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES" (HOLD-ING UP TWO FINGERS), BENN SAID THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE CENTER OF ENERGY DISCUSSIONS.

3. THE EMBASSY'S ENERGY ATTACHE', SPEAKING LATER, SAID THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT VIEW THE IEA AS HAVING THE OBJECTIVE OF CONFRONTATION AND DOES NOT CONDUCT ITS OWN IEA PARTICIPATION WITH THAT PURPOSE. WE NOTED THAT WHILE THE IEA IS DESIGNED TO ADDRESS IN A DEFENSIVE SENSE ANY SERIOUS OIL SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS, IT IS ALSO VERY ACTIVE IN CONSERVATION, ALTERNATE ENERGY, AND OTHER AREAS.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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